



## Committee Hosts “Immigrant Workers Freedom Ride Briefing”

On September 19, 2003, Assembly member Mark Ridley-Thomas, Chair of the Committee on Jobs, Economic Development and the Economy, hosted an “Immigrant Workers Freedom Ride Briefing” in Los Angeles. The briefing, held on the eve of the Immigrant Workers Freedom Ride, sought to inform the Committee and other legislators who participated on the panel about the goals of the Freedom Ride.

The Freedom Riders expressed their priorities which included protecting immigrant rights to: legalize their status; have a clear road to citizenship; reunify their families; reclaim their rights in the workplace; and have full protection of their civil rights and liberties. Moving testimony was also heard from

representatives who spoke on the challenges faced by immigrants and the need for national reform. These reforms, according to policy experts who testified, are long overdue and much needed if the state is to take responsibility for the immigrants who make up one third of the State’s labor force.

“Immigrants have become an integral part of California’s economy and the State has significantly benefited from their contributions,” said Assemblymember Ridley-Thomas. “It is because of the important role they play in our economy that I feel we must take a closer look at the policies that guide our

relationship with the immigrant community.”

The legislative panel included Senator Richard Alarcon (D-San Fernando Valley), Assemblymember Carol Liu (D-La Cañada), Assemblymember Alan Lowenthal (D-Long Beach), and Assemblymember Cindy Montañez (D-San Fernando Valley).

Panelist that briefed the Committee included the following individuals:

### *Condition of Immigrant Workers Testimony:*

Amanda Figueroa, Secretary /Treasurer, SEIU, Local 434B; Mike Garcia, President, SEIU, Local 1877; Alejandro Stevens, President, SEIU, Local 660; Reverend Norman Johnson, Pastor, First New Christian Missionary Baptist Church.

### *Immigrant Challenges and Contributions Testimony:*

Mark Yoshida, Esq., Asian Pacific American Legal Center; John Delloro, President, Los Angeles Asian Pacific American Labor Alliance; Angela Sambrano, Executive Director, CARECEN Los Angeles.

(left to right): Senator Richard Alarcon, Chair of the Senate Committee on Labor and Industrial Relations, Alejandro Stephens, General Manager SEIU Local 660, Assemblymember Cindy Montañez, Assemblyman Mark Ridley-Thomas, Chair of the Assembly Committee on Jobs, Economic Development and the Economy, Angela Sambrano, Ossee Samba Desmangles, Coalition for Humane Immigrant Rights of Los Angeles, Executive Director of the Central American Resource Center, Victor Narro, Director of Sweatshop Watch Los Angeles, Mark Yoshida, Esquire, Asian Pacific American Legal Center, James Elmendorf, Research Analyst for the Los Angeles Alliance for a New Economy.



## Freedom Ride

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### *Freedom Rider Testimony:*

Maria Elena Durazo, National Chair, Immigrant Workers Freedom Ride; Osse Samba Desmangles, Director, Workers Rights Project.

### *Policy Testimony:*

James Elmendorf, Research Analyst, LA Alliance for a New Economy; Victor Narro, Director, Sweatshop Watch Los Angeles.

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## Upcoming Informational Hearings

**J**oint Informational Hearing on "Tax Expenditures: Tradeoffs, Benefits and Economic Impacts"

**Assembly Committee on Revenue and Taxation and Assembly Committee on Jobs, Economic Development and the Economy**  
1:30pm-4:30pm, Wednesday, November 5  
State Capitol, Room 126  
Sacramento, CA.

**J**oint Informational Hearing on "California's Green Growth Industries of the Future"

**Assembly Committee on Natural Resources and the Assembly Committee on Jobs, Economic Development and the Economy**  
3:30pm-5:30pm, Wednesday, November 12  
California State University, Channel Islands, Conference Room 1  
Camarillo, CA.

**J**oint Informational Hearing on "Small Businesses: The California Job Source"

**Assembly Committee on Jobs, Economic Development and the Economy**  
Time and Date TBA  
Los Angeles, CA.

## Assemblymember Ridley-Thomas Looks to Expand Jobs in California: Assembly Committee Considers Pacific Rim Potential in California's Economy

**I**n the face of California's current challenging economic times, Assemblymember Mark Ridley-Thomas, Chair of the Committee on Jobs, Economic Development, and the Economy, hosted a hearing focused on "Creating Jobs for Californians: The Pacific Rim Connection" on August 22, 2003 at the California Science Center located in Los Angeles.

The hearing presented diverse representatives of the Pacific Rim who provided compelling testimony on how the legislature can better facilitate the creation of jobs in California through Pacific Rim trade. Two major areas of concern that surfaced from the testimony included the closure of the foreign trade offices and accommodating trade with California's infrastructure.

"California is the nation's top exporter to Asia," said Assemblymember Ridley-Thomas. "Traditionally, we have a strong economic relationship with the Pacific Rim due to the state's strategic location and with our large shipping ports. I believe trade with the Pacific Rim represents one of the promising routes of economic revitalization and restructuring for the State and the greater Los Angeles region."

Members of the Committee on Jobs, Economic Development and the Economy joining Assemblymember Ridley-Thomas at the hearing included Assemblymember Hannah-Beth Jackson (D-Santa Barbara) and Assemblymember Leland Yee (D-San Francisco). Assemblymember George Nakano (D-Torrance) and Assemblymember Alan Lowen-



thal (D-Long Beach) also participated on the panel.

"We cannot wait for business to come to California," said Assemblymember Yee. "We owe it to our children, to our seniors, to those who look to government for assistance and we owe it to those who are job generators to figure out ways we can work on our common goals. This hearing included testimony from representatives of Pacific Rim countries who indicated what things can be done to help business come to this country and facilitate individual businesses who want to do business in their countries."

Pacific Rim representatives providing testimony included:

### **Pacific Rim Partner Testimony:**

Philip Fan, Acting Director, Taipei Economic and Cultural Office in Los Angeles; Sang Woo Jeon, Director General, Korea Trade Center, Los Angeles; Maria Helen M. Barber, Deputy Consul General, Republic of the Philippines; Cai Zixian, Deputy Consul General, Consulate General in Los Angeles for the People's Republic of China; Yoshinao Ogawa, Chief Economist, Attaché for Japanese Government in Los

Angeles.

### **Family to Global Network Testimony:**

Kelvin Lee, Managing Director, East West Bank, Doug Pak, Vice President and Consultant, Global Realty Network, Ilse Metchek, Executive Director, California Fashion Association.

### **Facilitating Trade Testimony:**

Barry Sedlik, Chief Executive Officer, World Trade Center Association Long Beach-Los Angeles, Michael Rue, Chair, USA Rice International Trade Policy, Rohit Shukla, President and Chief Executive Officer, Los Angeles Regional Technology Alliance.

### **Expanding Business Testimony:**

Jim Flannigan, Senior Editor and Business Columnist, Los Angeles Times; Larry Keller, Executive Director, Port of Los Angeles; Teferi Gebre, Southern California Political Director, ALF-CIO; Rashid Sayouti, Director, US Commercial Service; Professor Richard Drobnik, Vice Provost for International Affairs, University of Southern California.

### *Assembly Committee on Jobs, Economic Development and the Economy Members:*

Mark Ridley-Thomas, *Chair*  
Bonnie Garcia, *Vice Chair*  
Fredericka McGee, *Chief Consultant*  
Annie Chang, *Associate Consultant*  
Lourdes Machado, *Committee Secretary*

Greg Aghazarian  
Russ Bogh  
Wilma Chan  
Shirley Horton  
Hannah-Beth Jackson  
Joe Nation  
Jenny Oropeza  
Nicole Parra  
Leland Yee

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